

X.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*1. *Alcock on the Birds of the Pamirs.*

[Report on the Natural-History Results of the Pamir Boundary Commission. By A. W. Alcock, M.B., Surgeon-Naturalist to the Commission. With a list of the Plants by J. F. Duthie, and a notice of the Rock-specimens by T. H. Holland. Calcutta, 1898. 48 pp.; 5 pls.]

Dr. Alcock accompanied the Pamir-Boundary Commission of the summer of 1897 as Naturalist, and now gives us an account of the results. Examples of 143 species of animals were obtained, of which 66 came from the Pamirs. The birds have been determined by Mr. Finn, of the Calcutta Museum. Those of the Pamirs are of 37 species, besides a few others not positively identified. They are nearly all well known. Besides these, specimens of 18 other species were procured on the route from Kashmir to Bozai Gumbuz, where the Little Pamir was entered.

2. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.*

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History, a Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' No. 27, July 1898, and No. 28, October 1898.]

An editorial notice of the action taken for the protection of wild birds and their eggs in Scotland is the first paper within our scope in No. 27; and Mr. Peter Anderson follows with a useful list of 128 species of birds observed by him during twelve years of residence on the island of Tiree. The great feature is, however, the account given by Mr. William Evans of the discovery of several pairs of Pintails (*Dafila acuta*) nesting on Loch Leven, in Kinross-shire—the first thoroughly-authenticated instance of the breeding of this Duck in Great Britain. The minor notes are of unusual interest; among the records being the first occurrence for more than thirty years of the Marsh-Harrier in Dumfriesshire.

To No. 28 Mr. T. G. Laidlaw contributes a valuable report on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland during 1897, and we may remark that this seems to be the clearest record published on the subject. Among the minor

notes, Mr. Henry Evans announces the capture of a Great Shearwater at St. Kilda, and we notice that for this species the old and familiar name *Puffinus major* (Faber) is employed. We fear, however, that it must be rejected in favour of *P. gravis* (O'Reilly), which has priority by four years, and is not only well described but unmistakably figured. Salvin, who never discarded an accepted name without reluctance, felt compelled to adopt the title *P. gravis* (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 373).

3. *Arundel on Ackworth Birds.*

[Ackworth Birds, being a List of Birds of the District of Ackworth, Yorkshire. By Major Walter B. Arundel. 8vo. Gurney & Jackson, London, 1898.]

Roughly speaking, Ackworth is in the neighbourhood of Pontefract, an undulating and well-wooded district. The species enumerated are 149, and are divided into Permanent Residents (54), Regular Summer-Residents (26), Regular Winter-Residents (9), and Visitors (60). The author acknowledges assistance from Mr. J. H. Salter and others, and although local or hypercritical ornithologists may be able to pick holes in 'Ackworth Birds' here and there, yet it seems to us to be, on the whole, a very careful piece of work.

4. *Audubon and his Journals.*

[Audubon and his Journals. By Maria R. Audubon, with Zoological and other Notes by Elliott Coues. With Thirty-seven Illustrations, including three hitherto unpublished Bird Drawings, and ten Portraits of Audubon. 2 vols. 8vo. London: John C. Nimmo, 1898.]

We are not surprised at the appreciation of Audubon and his work felt by our brethren in the U.S. Audubon, though he was born in France and published his principal books in England, devoted the best part of his life to the study of the birds and other animals of his adopted country, and, considering the circumstances in which he was placed, achieved a remarkable success.

For the two volumes now before us we have to thank the energy of his grand-daughter, most efficiently aided by our

friend and correspondent Dr. Coues. They commence with a biography of Audubon, the date of whose birth, strange to say, has never been ascertained. But he is believed to have been born in 1780, and at any rate he died on January the 27th, 1851, over 70 years of age. We will not go into the events of his life, the history of which is given here, with many interesting particulars, by his grandchild, and will, we are sure, be read with great interest by all ornithologists. The remainder of the present work is taken up with Audubon's Journals—those kept in Europe 1826–29, in Labrador in 1833, and on the Missouri in 1843. These, also, although they are of course rather antiquated, contain much useful matter. The second volume concludes with what are called "The Episodes," which are essays introduced in the first three volumes of the 'Ornithological Biography,' but not reprinted in the octavo edition of the 'Birds of America.' The volumes are well printed and nicely illustrated, and deserve a prominent place in the library of every lover of bird-lore.

5. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xv. Nos. 3, 4, July and October 1898.]

No. 3 opens with a coloured plate and full description of the Imperial Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus imperialis*), by Mr. E. W. Nelson, who had the good fortune to meet with examples of this large and handsome species in Mexico, as far south as Michoacan. Mr. R. Ridgway contributes the first paper of "a series intended for the publication of supposed new forms in advance of the larger work on the Birds of North and Middle America, upon which the author has been engaged for the past four years, the publication of which must necessarily be long delayed," and of these (Fringillidæ) he gives brief diagnoses of 14 genera and 6 species or subspecies. It is unnecessary to copy a mere list of their names, while to do more would involve a full abstract of the whole article. Mr. Joseph Mailliard found *Oceanodroma furcata* nesting in the same

burrows with our Leach's Petrel (*O. leucorrhœa*), on an islet at the mouth of Sitka Bay, Alaska; and it may be advisable to warn British ornithologists that the trivial name "Fork-tailed Petrel," which we apply to "Leach's Petrel," is used by Americans for *O. furcata*. Mr. J. Grinnell gives an account of the land-birds observed in winter on the lofty island (3000 ft.) of Santa Catalina, California, and follows with descriptions of a new subspecies or geographical race of Thrasher (*Harpohynchus*) and a new subspecies of Wren (*Salpinctes*); while Dr. E. A. Mearns, as well as Mr. McGregor, describe other new species from Lower California. Mr. W. Palmer has a paper on the smaller Shrikes found in North America to the east of the Plains. In the General Notes Dr. Elliott Coues opposes Dr. L. Stejneger's views about the generic names of some of the Swallows.

Dendroica kirtlandi, with a coloured plate, is the subject of the first article, by Mr. F. M. Chapman, in No. 4. Next, Mr. D. G. Elliot calls for nothing less than the rejection of Canon xl. of the A. O. U. Code, which is that "the original typography of a name is rigidly preserved, unless a typographical error is evident;" and Prof. J. A. Allen defends Canon xl. against Mr. Elliot and Dr. Elliott Coues. It is not for us to express an opinion, but those who are interested in questions of nomenclature will find much amusement and some instruction in these articles, especially if they have had a classical education. Passing over contributions of purely local interest, we reach Mr. A. W. Anthony's paper on the Avifauna of the Revillagigedo Islands, off Lower California. Mr. Ridgway publishes a second instalment of his new species and subspecies of American birds; and he also describes a new Humming-bird, *Atthis morcomi* (near *A. heloisæ*), from a female obtained in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, the adult male being as yet unknown. From the Truando River, Colombia, Mr. C. W. Richmond describes *Gynostimops cassini* sp. n. Lastly, Mr. C. K. Clarke claims to have discovered the long-sought-for nest (with 5 eggs!) of *Totanus solitarius* on Lake Ontario, but the evidence of identification seems to us to be by no means conclusive.

6. *Beddard on the Structure and Classification of Birds.*

[The Structure and Classification of Birds. By Frank E. Beddard, M.A., F.R.S., Prosector and Vice-Secretary of the Zoological Society of London. Longmans, Green & Co. 1898. 1 vol. 8vo. 548 pp.]

This long-expected volume will, we are sure, be a most useful book of reference to the ornithologist, containing, as it does, a complete summary of the present state of our knowledge of the structure of the large and varied Class which forms the special subject of our studies. Fürbringer's huge volume is too ponderous and too lengthy, and Gadow's excellent memoir (in Bronn's 'Tierreich') is written in a tongue not understood by all of us. Here we have a conveniently-sized and excellently-illustrated handbook, written in plain language which any one can understand, and full of references for the guidance of those who wish to enter more deeply into any special branch of the subject.

We should have been glad, however, if the author had stated his conclusions as to the best classification of birds a little more definitely. We are all aware that no group of animals can be satisfactorily arranged in a straight line, and this is eminently true of the Class of Birds. In ordinary work the '*Stammbaum*' is not available, and we must have for common use a linear series beginning either at the top or the bottom. We suppose that Mr. Beddard's "picked" series is that followed in the present volume, but it is not quite clear that such is the case, and we should prefer to have no doubt on the matter. The place assigned to the "Accipitres," considering their many Passerine characters, seems to be rather low, and the "Sphenisci," in our opinion, should be sunk nearly to the bottom of the series.

Another group which appears to be treated rather slightly by Mr. Beddard is the "Passeres"—which contains more than half the known species of the whole Class of Birds. Only five pages are allowed for its discussion, whereas some five-and-thirty are assigned to the comparatively small group of "Struthiones." We venture to suggest that our friend might do well to give us a second volume on the Structure and Classification of the Passeres, upon

which we suspect he would find a heap of notes in the MSS. of Garrod and Forbes—his illustrious predecessors in the Prosectorship, besides what he has accumulated during his own tenure of the same office. There is no point in the whole subject of Birds upon which we so much require further information.

7. *Butler's 'Birds of Indiana.'*

[The Birds of Indiana. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds that have been observed within the State, with an Account of their Habits. By Amos W. Butler. 8vo. Indianapolis, 1897.]

Mr. A. W. Butler, the Curator of the Department of Ornithology of the Indiana Academy of Science, has kindly sent us a copy of the reprint of his essay on the birds of Indiana, which was originally issued as a part of the Geological Report for 1897 on that State. It contains an account of the occurrence, distribution, breeding-range, nesting-habits, and food of the birds that have been ascertained to occur within the State's limits, and gives short descriptions of all the species (321 in number). The nomenclature and arrangement are those of the American Check-list. The volume will be manifestly of great use to the local ornithologists. It is illustrated by numerous figures in the text, which vary much in style of execution.

8. *Delaware-Valley Ornithological Club's 'Proceedings.'*

[Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, for the years 1892 to 1897. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1898.]

This is the title of a society established at Philadelphia for the study of the birds of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, and of ornithological science in general, and appears to be a flourishing institution. Several well-known contributors to 'The Auk' are among its members. The publication now before us contains an abstract of the 'Proceedings' of the Club from 1892 to 1897. Many of the papers read have been published in 'The Auk,' 'Science,' and elsewhere. In future it is proposed to issue a yearly volume.

9. *De Vis's Report on the Birds of British New Guinea, 1896-97.*

[Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897, with Appendices. 4to. Brisbane, 1898.]

The Annual Report to the Queensland Parliament for 1896-97 contains in its Appendix (A. A., p. 81) a report by Mr. De Vis on the birds collected by Sir William Macgregor, the Lient.-Governor of British New Guinea, during his recent adventurous journey overland from the Mamberé River on the east, across the central range, to the Vanapa River on the west, also during the expedition subsequently sent into the Vanapa Valley, and the return over the Wharton Range to the Mamberé by a new track. The whole series obtained consists of 471 specimens, which are referred to 175 species. Of these the principal novelties have been already characterized by Mr. De Vis in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1897, p. 371), but the following 10 additional new species are described in the present report:—

Oreopsittacus viridigaster, *Cyclopsittacus nanus*, *Nasiterna orientalis*, *Rhipidura letiscapa*, *Gerygone robusta*, *Pachycephala strenua*, *Ptilotis perstriata*, *P. piperata*, *Sarganura maculiceps*, and *Ibis (Falcinellus) humeralis*.

Sarganura (op. cit. p. 87) is a new genus of Meliphagidæ, but its exact position is not stated.

10. *Hartert on Birds from Nias Island.*

[Einiges über Vögel von der Insel Nias. Von Ernst Hartert. Ornith. Monatsb. vi. 1898, p. 89.]

Rosenberg, Modigliani, and other known collectors have made us pretty well acquainted with the birds of Nias Island, off the west coast of Sumatra, and Heer Büttikofer (Notes Leyd. Mus. xviii. p. 195) has lately given us an excellent list of the 128 species yet recognized as belonging to its avifauna. The receipt at Tring of a series of bird-skins collected by Herr Raap in Nias has induced Mr. Hartert to prepare the present paper, which contains notes and remarks on about 30 species, some of which are addi-

tions to the list, while two new subspecies are described under the names *Aethopyga siparaga niasensis* and *Chloropsis zosterops parvirostris*. On the whole there can be no doubt that the avifauna of Nias is Sumatran, with a certain infusion of peculiar species and subspecies.

11. Hett's 'Dictionary of Bird Notes.'

[A Dictionary of Bird Notes, to which is appended a Glossary of Popular, Local, and Old-fashioned Synonyms of British Birds. By Chas. Louis Hett. 12mo. Brigg, 1898.]

The author has evidently bestowed considerable care upon a very difficult task, for the human sense of hearing varies more than sight, and agreement as to the syllabic reproduction of the notes of birds is practically unattainable. The scheme is business-like. First comes an alphabetical list of the call-notes, "posted," in commercial phrase, to the utterer; and this is followed by a list of birds and the sounds which they emit. Some amusing "promiscuous feeding" is to be found in this portion; while a glossary of popular, local, and old-fashioned names is useful and suggestive. It was unnecessary to inform us that the word "couple" means two, and it is erroneous to assume that two are necessarily "a pair." We never before heard of a "murmuration" of Starlings, but the word has a commendably blessed and soothing sound.

12. 'Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist, a Monthly Journal of general Irish Natural History. Edited by G. H. Carpenter and R. Lloyd Praeger. Vol. vii. Nos. 1-11. Dublin: Eason & Son, Limited. 1898.]

We are glad to see that this useful journal maintains the reputation with which it started in 1892. As regards birds, the first contribution in 1898 is by Miss Lena Gyles (now Mrs. R. M. Barrington), and treats of the occurrences in Ireland of the Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), a bird which is an extremely rare visitor to the sister-island, and was not recorded at all until 1877. Even now only five examples are known, and two of these have been obtained at lighthouses,

for the "returns" from which all students of migration are infinitely indebted to Mr. Barrington. An account, by Mr. Moffat, of a visit to the Copeland and Mew Islands—once the famous breeding-place of three species of Tern—is supplemented by a list of the rare Irish-killed birds in the Belfast Museum, many of these being "classical" in reputation, as having been mentioned by Thompson. Mr. R. Warren gives an excellent description of the habits of the Long-tailed Duck in Killala Bay, and his observations are not made chiefly "along the barrels of a gun," which, as Mr. Lockwood Kipling observes, "is false perspective." Mr. Warren also describes the migration last spring of *Motacilla alba* along the banks of the Moy; and, we may add, there can be hardly any doubt that a pair of White Wagtails were nesting early in June near Belmullet. In fact Mr. Warren's experiences, taken with those of Mr. G. H. Caton Haigh in North Wales, and of others in Scotland, all tend to show that there is a fairly regular migration of this species—of far more importance than has hitherto been realized—along the western portions of the British Islands, and probably on the way to Iceland. Mr. Warren's experienced eye also detected, in summer, an immature Iceland Gull among some Herring-Gulls feeding in a field in Co. Sligo, and we are perfectly satisfied with his identification, which is saying a good deal in the case of a young Gull. In the longest paper of the volume Mr. C. J. Patten gives a useful list of the species of birds observed in Dublin Bay. Short notes on rare or uncommon birds are contributed by Messrs. Barrett-Hamilton, E. Blake Knox, R. Patterson, and others; one feature being the general testimony to the spread of the Stock-Dove (*Columba oenas*) in Ireland, where the bird was formerly very local, and practically confined to the north-eastern portion.

We hope this useful periodical may receive support in Great Britain, for naturalists are necessarily scarce in Ireland. Its cost is the mere trifle of 5s. yearly, and, although our notice is limited to birds, a very large portion of the work is devoted to other branches of natural history.

13. *Meyer on the Proceedings of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft.*

[Der Deutschen ornithologischen Gesellschaft in Dresden vom 28.–30. Mai 1897. No. 2. Aus der 22. Jahresversammlung. Herausgegeben von A. B. Meyer. Abhandl. u. Ber. zool. anthrop. Mus. Dresden, 1898–99, p. 1.]

Dr. Meyer has devoted a number of the ‘Abhandlungen’ of the Royal Zoological, Anthropological, and Ethnographical Museum of Dresden to an account of the proceedings of the Anniversary Meeting of the German Ornithological Society held at Dresden in 1897, or rather to such of them as have not been already published in the ‘Journal f. Orn.’ and elsewhere. Among them we find an interesting narrative by Dr. Koenig of his recent ornithological tour up the Nile, during which he collected some 700 birdskins. Dr. Koenig met with *Rhynchops* first on April 7th near Nagh Hamadi, and obtained altogether 14 specimens. Herr v. Biederman gives copies (plate i. figs. 2, 3) of the two newly-discovered pictures of the Dodo in the Dresden Gallery, and a list of the figures of the Dodo (12 in all) previously known to exist. There are also several papers on questions of nomenclature and other subjects, and an account of the great “demonstration” of Paradise-birds (held May 30th), when the fine series of these birds in the Leyden Museum was supplemented by specimens from Tring, Berlin, Milan, Genoa, and other museums. Altogether this is a very attractive publication for ornithologists.

14. *Meyer and Wiglesworth: ‘Birds of Celebes.’*

[The Birds of Celebes and Neighbouring Islands. By A. B. Meyer and L. W. Wiglesworth. Pp. i–xxxiii, 1–962. 2 vols. Imperial 4to. Berlin: R. Friedländer & Sohn, 1898.]

The island of Celebes is of special interest to students of geographical distribution because it lies between two of the great zoological Regions—the Oriental on the north and the Australian on the south—and has been referred by some authorities to the first and by others to the last of these Regions. It was, therefore, an inviting subject for an

ornithological monograph of an exhaustive kind, such as Messrs. Meyer and Wigglesworth have provided in the two solid volumes now before us. Beginning with some excellent maps, which show exactly the area to which the authors devote their attention, they discuss the previous literature on the subject, the seasons and winds of Celebes, the general subject of migration in the East-Indian archipelago, the variation of birds under different phases, their geographical distribution around the Celebesian area, and a number of other collateral subjects, before they come to the systematic part of their work, in which is contained a full account of the 393 species as yet recognized as belonging to the Celebesian avifauna. Fifteen genera are stated to be restricted to Celebes, of which 4 are of first-class importance, 8 of second-class (*i. e.* not quite so distinct as the four first), and 3 of third-class value. Seventy-seven species are peculiar to the island of Celebes, and these in like manner are divisible into three categories, 10 being of the first class, 22 of the second, and 45 of the third. The final conclusion arrived at is that one half of the peculiar birds of Celebes have their nearest affinities in the Oriental Region, and one fifth only in the Australian Region, but that the Australian forms seem to be, on the average, rather more strongly differentiated than the Oriental forms. Ornithologists must, therefore, in future follow Mr. W. L. Selater's advice, deduced from a study of the island's mammals (see 'Geographical Journal,' viii. p. 388), and attach the Celebesian Subregion to the Oriental and not to the Australian Region.

Taking this important work as a whole, we venture to pronounce it to be one of the most complete and exhaustive ornithological monographs that have ever been written on a special geographical area, and we beg leave to congratulate the authors on having brought their task, which we know has cost them several years of severe labour, to so successful a conclusion.

The monograph is accompanied by 45 (mostly) coloured plates, not all, perhaps, of first-rate excellence, but many of satisfactory quality.

We cannot forbear adding the following quotation from the work: it would make an excellent text for an ornithological sermon!—"At the present day the process of genus-making, which bids fair not to cease till every species—we do not speak of geographical races—has a genus for itself, is imposing a severe tax on the brains of ornithologists, and is defeating its own ends. Even the closest specialists cannot always refer species to their 'proper genera,' because their 'peculiarities' are not peculiar to them, or are intangibly small."

With reference to our authors' allusion (p. 704) to the supposed discovery of a Cuban Owl (*Glaucidium siju*) in the Canaries by Dr. Koenig, it should be noted that, after the statement made by Mr. Meade-Waldo (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 186), there can be no doubt that this was an error, and that the Owl in question was brought to the Canaries by human agency. This fictitious event cannot, therefore, be quoted as an instance of "discontinuous distribution."

15. *Nelson on new Mexican Birds.*

[Description of new Birds from Mexico, with a Revision of the Genus *Dactylortyx*. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xii. p. 57 (1898).]

The following new species and subspecies are based upon specimens of Mexican birds in the collection of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture:—*Heleodytes brunneicapillus obscurus*, *Vireo nanus*, *Progne sinaloæ*, *Phænicothraupis rubicoides roseus*, *Amphispiza bilineata grisea*, *Guiraca chiapensis*, *Grallaria ochraceiventris*, *Amazilia cinnamomea saturata*, *Dactylortyx chiapensis*, and *D. devius*. Mr. Nelson makes out four representative species of *Dactylortyx* from different parts of Mexico.

16. *Neumann on the Avifauna of German and British East-Africa.*

[Beiträge zur Vogelfauna von Ost- und Central-Africa. Von Oscar Neumann. Journ. f. Orn. 1898, p. 227.]

This is the first portion of an account by Herr Oscar

Neumann of the birds of which he obtained or observed specimens during his travels in German and British East-Africa from 1892 to 1896. As the specimens have been carefully determined by Herr Neumann himself, after examining the African Collections, not only in Berlin, but also in London, Tring, Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Munich, Frankfurt, and Hamburg, and as their names and references are accompanied by the author's field-notes, it will be obvious that the resulting memoir, which will treat of about 530 species, will be of no small importance to students of East-African ornithology. The present instalment, which begins with the *Struthiones* and ends with the *Columbæ* and *Gallinæ*, treats of 120 species. Among these *Struthio massaicus* and *Turturæna harterti* are described as new species, and *Haplopelia larvata kilimensis* (from Kilimanjaro) and *Pternistes nudicollis melanogaster* (from Tanga) as new subspecies. Of *Turturæna harterti*, *Pternistes nudicollis melanogaster*, *Pt. nudicollis typicus*, *Pt. n. humboldti*, and *Pt. leucopareius* coloured figures are given.

The introduction to this paper contains a short account of Herr Neumann's routes and collecting-stations, with many very interesting ornithological remarks, which are well worthy of perusal. The traveller, after collecting in the island of Zanzibar and on the opposite coast, left Tanga finally for the interior at the end of April 1893, and arrived at Irangi a month later. Hence an excursion was made to the well-known emporium Mpapwa in Northern Ugogo for fresh supplies, and Irangi was reached again on Sept. 7th. From Irangi the route was north-westward towards the Victoria Nyanza, passing the large and little-known Lake Manyara, of the bird-life of which an extraordinary account is given (see also on this subject the same author in *Orn. Monatsb.* March 1890). Besides enormous flocks of residents, such as Pelicans, Flamingos, Terns, Ducks, and Geese, Lake Manyara seems to be the favourite resort during winter of multitudes of visitors from the north—Waders, Herons, Ibises, and Plovers. These birds feed on a small species of fish, which is abundant in the natron-stained waters of

the lake. In the adjoining acacia-forest bird-life was also found to be extremely well represented, and in the neighbouring desert which separates Manyara from the salt Lake of Nguruman some of the specimens upon which Herr Neumann has based his new Ostrich, *Struthio massaicus*, were obtained. This Ostrich is stated to be a red-necked form allied to the northern *S. camelus*, and not blue-necked like *S. molybdophanes*, to which species the Ostrich of German East-Africa has been hitherto usually referred.

After going some way further north, Herr Neumann turned westward towards Lake Victoria, which he reached at Mori Bay in February 1894. In Kavirondo he collected largely for several months, and then proceeded to Uganda, and round the north side of the lake to Bukoba and Muansa. Returning to Lubwas, on the Nile, he had the misfortune of finding the large collections he had left there for safe custody completely spoiled by damp. Nothing daunted, Herr Neumann started on another hunting expedition in the provinces of Chagweh and Bulamwezi, where elephants and other large game were abundant, but did not cease to collect birds. He returned to Mumia's, on the Uganda caravan-road, in November 1894, where he met Mr. F. J. Jackson; and thence proceeded homeward through British East-Africa. On the Mau plateau birds were abundant, and five new species were discovered. Swarms of *Irrisor jacksoni* and other varieties were met with. Finally our energetic friend visited the slopes of Kilimanjaro, and made good collections at a height of some 9000 feet, obtaining examples of many new species, among which was the *Pipra*-like wonder named *Atopornis diabolicus* (!). On Feb. 5th, 1895, Herr Neumann reached Mombasa, and took ship for Tanga, whence he returned to Europe after an absence of two and a half years. It will be thus evident that Herr Neumann's journeyings have been long and his collections extensive, and we look forward with great interest to the issue of the second and final portion of his account of them.

17. *Neumann on the Species of Numida.*

[Die Helm-perlhühner. Von Oscar Neumann. Orn. Monatsb. vi. Feb. 1898.]

Herr Neumann attacks the very difficult question of the species of typical *Numida*—*i. e.* the naked-headed group of *N. meleagris* and its allies, which have been frequently confused together and misnamed. He makes out seven species, besides three subspecies, but leaves several points open, to be determined only by examination and comparison of type-specimens. The most absolutely distinct species seems to be *N. ptilorhyncha* with its bristled nostrils. Of *N. marungensis*, based upon Bohm's MS., no specimens are known in Museums.

18. *North's Ornithological Notes.*

[Ornithological Notes. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Records Austral. Mus. iii. No. 4, p. 85. IV. On a Species of Pigeon frequenting the Atolls of the Ellice Group; V. On the Occurrence of *Butastur teesa* in Australia (*ibid.* p. 87); VI. On a Living Example of *Psephotus chrysopterygius* (*ibid.* p. 87); VII. On the Extension of the Range of *Phueton candidus* to New South Wales and Lord Howe Island (*ibid.* p. 89).]

Mr. North, as will be seen from the titles given above, continues his ornithological notes on the birds of the Australian Region. The Fruit-Pigeon of Funafuti is stated to be *Globicera pacifica*, and Mr. Gardiner was probably in error in identifying it (*Ibis*, 1898, p. 45) with *Carpophaga pistrinaria*—a species of the Solomon group. As regards *Psephotus chrysopterygius*, there is now a pair of this beautiful Parrot living in the Zoological Society's Gardens in London, as Mr. North states in a postscript to his note, so that it will not be necessary to go to Sydney to see it. The occurrence of specimens of *Phaethon candidus* on the coast near Sydney and at Lord Howe Island is recorded. In Australia it was previously known to be met with only in the extreme north, and was not included in any of Gould's lists.

19. *Oustalet on the Birds of the Marianne Islands.*

[Les Mammifères et les Oiseaux des Iles Mariannes. Par M. E. Oustalet. Nouv. Arch. d. Mus. sér. 3, nos. 7 & 8. Paris, 1895-96?]

This excellent memoir, which, although issued some time

since, has only lately come under our notice, contains a complete account of the birds of the Marianne group, lying in the Pacific, north of the Carolines. Although the Mariannes were visited by the French Expeditions of the 'Uranic' in 1819 and of the 'Astrolabe' in 1828, it is to M. Alfred Marche—a well-known explorer who has previously visited the Gaboon and the Philippines—that the National Museum of France is indebted for its splendid series of the mammals and birds of these islands, upon which the present memoir is principally based. M. Marche passed nearly two years in the various islands, and transmitted home during that period 732 specimens of Mammals and Birds.

After adding to the list the names of the few other species recorded by previous authors, M. Oustalet is thus enabled to register 47 birds as belonging to the avifauna of the Mariannes. Of these he gives us in every case exact and elaborate particulars. The general facies of the Ornis of this group is shown to be essentially Polynesian. About 11 species are peculiar to it, and of these the Meliphagine form *Cleptornis marchei* is even generically different.

A coloured illustration is given of *Ptilotis marchei*.

20. Oustalet on Birds from Setchuan.

[Observations sur quelques Oiseaux du Setchuan et description d'espèces nouvelles ou peu connues. Par M. E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. nat. 1898, p. 221.]

M. Biot, who had previously sent many specimens of birds from Setchuan and Yunnan to Paris, has lately transmitted to the Museum an important series of examples obtained by the members of the Mission at Ta-t sien-lou. M. Oustalet writes specially on eight of them, among which is a very fine new *Calliope* proposed to be called *C. davidi*, and a *Trochalopteron* to be named *T. styani* if it be not the *T. cinereiceps* of Styau.

21. Oustalet on new Birds from China and Indo-China.

[Description de cinq Espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux appartenant au Muséum

d'Histoire naturelle et provenant de la Chine et de l'Indo-Chine. Par M. E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. nat. 1896, no. 7.]

The following new species are described :—*Carpococcyx renauldi* from Annam; *Pitta (Hydrornis) annamensis* from Annam; *Cryptolopha dejeani* from Ta-tsien-lou in Setchuan; *Gennæus edwardsi* from Annam; and *Arboricola henrici* from Tonkin and Annam. The discovery of new species of *Carpococcyx*, *Pitta*, and *Gennæus* is of great interest.

22. Oustalet on Birds from Indo-China.

[Catalogue des Oiseaux recueillis par M. le Comte de Barthélemy dans le cours de son dernier voyage en Indo-Chine. Par M. E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. nat. 1898, no. 1.]

This is a list of 69 of the species of birds represented in the collection made by Comte de Barthélemy during his expedition from Tonquin up the Mekong into China, accompanied by field-notes of the collector and exact localities.

23. Oustalet on the Struthiones.

[Catalogue sommaire des Oiseaux de l'Ordre des Brevipennes qui figurent dans les galeries du Muséum. Par M. E. Oustalet. Nouv. Arch. du Mus. Paris, sér. 3, viii. p. 261 (1896).]

This is a list of the specimens of Struthiones in the gallery of the Paris Museum. The most remarkable of them is the unique specimen of *Dromæus ater* Vieill. Good coloured figures are given of *Casuaris occipitalis* and *C. laglazei*.

24. Oustalet on Birds from British Central Africa.

[Catalogue des Oiseaux recueillis par M. Foa dans la région des Grands Lacs, immédiatement au nord du Zambèze moyen. Par M. E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. nat. 1898, no. 2, p. 58.]

The collection of birds recently sent to the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris by M. Foa, the French explorer, contains specimens which are referred by M. Oustalet to 54 species. Of these a list is given, accompanied by the field-notes of the collector. No exact localities are added, and the "région" stated in the title of the article is rather vague, but we believe that M. Foa's explorations were

chiefly in British Central Africa, and the species in the list are mostly the same as those recorded in Capt. Shelley's various papers on the birds of that country.

25. *Pycraft on the Gular Pouch of the Bustard.*

[The Gular Pouch of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). By W. Pycraft. Nat. Sc. xiii. p. 313. Nov. 1898.]

In this article Mr. Pycraft gives a good review of the literature (beginning in 1681!) on the vexed question of the gular pouch of the Great Bustard, and adds his own testimony on the subject, based upon the examination of the fine adult male of this species lately living in the Zoological Society's Gardens. In this specimen there can be no doubt that a pouch existed, and, as will be seen by the full-page figure (p. 321), a very large one.

The bird died in May last in the middle of its period of sexual excitement, of which the gular pouch is manifestly an accompanying phenomenon, possibly developed only during this season, and serving to help the bird to assume the extraordinary attitudes it adopts when courting.

The mounted specimen of the pouch will shortly be exhibited in the Bird-gallery of the British Museum.

26. *Ramsay and North on the Birds of the Australian Museum.*

[Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum, Sydney, N.S.W. Parts I. & II.: Accipitres and Striges. By E. P. Ramsay, LL.D. Second Edition, with Additions, by A. J. North, C.M.Z.S. 8vo. Sydney, 1874-98.]

This is a second edition of the first two parts of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the Australian Museum, Sydney,' which were prepared and published by the late Mr. Ramsay, the former in 1874 and the latter in 1890. The catalogues have been revised and brought up to date by Mr. A. J. North, Ornithologist to the Museum. The Australian Accipitres, treated of in Part I., are 28 in number; the Striges, in Part II., are 16. Full synonymies and descriptions are given of all the species, as also the exact localities of all the specimens in the Museum.

27. *Rothschild's Synopsis of the Paradiseidæ.*

[Das Tierreich. Eine Zusammenstellung und Kennzeichnung der rezenten Tierformen. Herausgegeben von der Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft. Generalredakteur Franz Eilhard Schütze. 2 Lief. Aves. Redakteur A. Reichenow. Paradiseidæ bearbeitet von The Hon. Walter Rothschild. April 1898. 52 pp. Berlin: Friedländer.]

The second part of the 'Aves' of the great German zoological work 'Das Tierreich' contains a synopsis of the Paradiseidæ (in which family are included the Bower-birds, Ptilonorhynchinae), prepared by Mr. Rothschild, who here gives us an elaborate and completely up-to-date account of one of his favourite groups, of which the Tring Museum contains an almost unrivalled series. We are, however, still of opinion that (for reasons already stated, *vide* 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 440) the diagnoses should have been given in Latin instead of German.

Mr. Rothschild recognizes 78 species of Paradiseidæ, divided into 32 genera. Besides these, a certain number of subspecies are recognized, the typical subspecies of each species being indicated by the adjective "*typicus*" or "*typica*" placed after it, we are pleased to say, and not by the ugly repetition of the specific term, which is sometimes used. As regards generic divisions the author is *not* an extremist,—he does not use such genera as *Astrarchia*, *Paradisornis*, *Trichoparadisea*, and *Eucorax*, but at the same time he is sufficiently liberal in this respect. We cannot say that in our opinion he is justified in resuscitating *Falcinellus* and giving it priority to *Epimachus*, as to do so will only lead to confusion between Paradise-birds and Ibises, for the latter of which *Falcinellus* is habitually employed. But then we do not profess or wish to carry priority to its bitter-end—a pastime which some of our friends delight in. We fear also that Mr. De Vis will hardly know his own name when reduced to "Vis." At the same time these are but very slight blemishes in what will be allowed by every ornithologist to be an excellent piece of most useful work.

28. Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes'*

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seebohm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part IV. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1898.]

In Part IV. of this beautiful monograph, which was issued in October last, the account of the typical *Turdi* (according to Seebohm's views) is continued. We agree with the Editor that *Turdus herminieri* of Guadaloupe and its representatives in the adjacent islands ought not to be included in the genus *Turdus*, though Dr. Stejneger was probably correct in his view that they are Thrushes and not Mock-birds. Dr. Sharpe has elevated all the American subspecies of the "*swainsoni*" group to specific rank, and makes no less than seven species of them. It would be very difficult, in our opinion, to recognize specimens of several of these alleged species unless the localities were attached to them.

The following species are figured in this part:—*Turdus herminieri*, *T. dominicensis*, *T. iliacus*, *T. musicus*, *T. auritus*, *T. viscivorus*, *T. mustelinus*, *T. fuscescens*, *T. alicia*, *T. auduboni*, *T. pilaris*, *T. jamaicensis*.

29. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part VIII. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1898.]

This is the closing part of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's Monograph of the Paradise-birds and Bower-birds, and we congratulate him on bringing these two splendid volumes to so early and so satisfactory a close. The first volume, as completed, treats of 44 species, the second of 52. In his preface, in which the whole subject is reviewed, Dr. Sharpe, although he adopts the *Paradiseidæ* and the *Ptilonorhynchidæ* as distinct families, confesses his inability, when taking them in conjunction with the *Corvidæ*, to separate them by satisfactory characters. In the general arrangement, the *Paradiseidæ* are taken first and divided into two subfamilies, the

* Cf. 'Ibis,' 1898, p. 623.

Epimachinæ with nine genera, and the *Paradisæinæ* with nineteen genera. In the Bower-birds (Ptilonorhynchidæ) fourteen genera are recognized.

A new genus (*Calastrapia*) is proposed for *Astrapia splendidissima*. We are pleased to see that Dr. Sharpe objects to revive *Falcinellus* in place of *Epimachus*, and that he adheres to the name *speciosus* for the typical species of that genus. The first volume of the monograph contains 39 plates, and the second 40; the number of species recognized is 96, being 18 more than those given by Mr. Rothschild in his recent synopsis of the same group in 'Das Tierreich.'

The following species are figured in the present number:—*Parephephorus duivenbodii*, *Astrapia splendidissima*, *Paradisæa intermedia*, *P. decora*, *Phonygama hunsteini*, *Manucodia atra*, *Amblyornis flavifrons*, *A. inornata*, *Chlamydodera cervini-ventris*, *C. maculata*, *C. nuchalis*.

30. *Sharpe and Ogilvie Grant: Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum.*

[Catalogue of the Plataleæ, Herodiones, Steganopodes, Pygopodes, Alcæ, and Impennes in the Collection of the British Museum.—Plataleæ (Ibises and Spoonbills) and Herodiones (Hérons and Storks), by R. Bowdler Sharpe. Steganopodes (Cormorants, Gannets, Frigate-Birds, Tropic-Birds, and Pelicans), Pygopodes (Divers and Grebes), Alcæ (Auks), and Impennes (Penguins), by W. R. Ogilvie Grant. 8vo. London, 1898.]

With the greatest satisfaction all who are engaged in work on ornithological subjects will hail the long-wished-for appearance of the twenty-sixth volume of the Catalogue of Birds, which brings the long series, commenced in 1874, to a conclusion.

The first portion of this volume (328 pp.), containing the Plataleæ and Herodiones, has been composed by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe; the remainder of the work—Steganopodes, Pygopodes, Alcæ, and Impennes (330 pp.)—has been prepared by Mr. Ogilvie Grant.

The Plataleæ described in the present volume are 33 in number, the Herodiones 120, the Steganopodes 68, the Pygopodes 26, the Alcæ 26, and the Impennes 17, so that

altogether 290 species (referred to 98 genera) are comprised in this volume. Only 10 out of these species are unrepresented in the British Museum.

There appear to be only four new generic terms introduced for the first time in this volume, namely:—*NOTOPHOYX* (Sharpe), *TIGRORNIS* (Sharpe), *HETEROCNUS* (Sharpe), and *MICRURIA* (Grant). The new species characterized are *Melanophoyx vinaceigula* Sharpe, *Tigrisoma bahiæ* Sharpe, *Phalacrocorax stewarti* Grant, and *Phaëthon americanus* Grant. The name *Ardea picata*, being preoccupied, is proposed by Dr. Sharpe to be altered to *Notophoyx flavirostris* (see p. 654). The following species are figured:—*Phoyx manillensis*, *Melanophoyx vinaceigula*, *Notophoyx aruensis*, *Nyctanassa pauper*, *Butorides spodiogaster*, *Tigrisoma bahiæ*, *Dupetor nesophilus*, *D. melas*, *Erythrophoyx woodfordi*, *E. prætermissa*, *Phalacrocorax stewarti*, *Pelecanus thagus*, *Phaëthon indicus*, *Tachybaptus capensis*, and *T. albipennis*.

We append (p. 151) a list of the 27 volumes of the "Great Catalogue of Birds," showing their contents, authors, dates, and the numbers of the genera and species treated of in each of them.

It will be observed that the total number of species of birds regarded as valid in the 27 volumes is 11,617.

31. *Vorderman on Birds from the Moluccas.*

[Molukken-Vogels. Door A. G. Vorderman. Natuurk. Tijds. Nederl. Indië, lviii. Afl. 2, p. 169.]

The author gives an account of a collection made for him by his hunters in the Moluccas—Ternate, Batchian, Halmahera, Ceram, Bourou, Amboina, Banda, and some other islands. Among the 109 species to which the specimens are referred, one—*Chalcococcyx nieuwenhuisi*, from Gani, on the south-west coast of Halmahera—is described as new.

32. *Vorderman on Lophura nobilis.*

[*Lophura nobilis*, Selat., de Fazant van Bangka. Door A. G. Vorderman. Natuurk. Tijds. Nederl. Indië, lviii. Afl. 2.]

Herr Vorderman shows that the representative of the

Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.

Vol.	Contents.	Author.	Date.	No. of Genera.	No. of Species.
I.	Accipitres	R. B. Sharpe.	1874	80	389
II.	Striges	R. B. Sharpe.	1875	19	190
III.	Coliomorphæ	R. B. Sharpe.	1877	94	370
IV.	Cichlomorphæ, Pt. I.	R. B. Sharpe.	1879	81	520
V.	Cichlomorphæ, Pt. II.	H. Seebohm.	1881	18	344
VI.	Cichlomorphæ, Pt. III.	R. B. Sharpe.	1881	66	407
VII.	Cichlomorphæ, Pt. IV.	R. B. Sharpe.	1883	164	687
VIII.	{ Cichlomorphæ, Pt. V., and Certhiomorphæ	{ Hans Gadow.	{ 1883	{ 46	{ 402
IX.	Cinnyrimorphæ	Hans Gadow.	1884	35	355
X.	Fringilliformes, Pt. I.	R. B. Sharpe.	1885	63	448
XI.	Fringilliformes, Pt. II.	P. L. Sclater.	1886	100	575
XII.	Fringilliformes, Pt. III.	R. B. Sharpe.	1888	101	559
XIII.	Sturniformes	R. B. Sharpe.	1890	129	601
XIV.	Oligomyodæ	P. L. Sclater.	1888	142	665
XV.	Tracheophonæ	P. L. Sclater.	1890	92	531
XVI.	{ Upupæ and Trochili	{ O. Salvin.	{ 1892	{ 163	{ 687
	{ Coraciæ	{ E. Hartert.			
XVII.	{ Coraciæ (<i>continued</i>) and Hal- cyones	{ R. B. Sharpe.	{ 1892	{ 67	{ 397
	{ Bucerotes and Trogones	{ W. R. Ogilvie Grant.			
XVIII.	Scansores	E. Hargitt.	1890	50	385
XIX.	Scansores and Coccoyges	{ P. L. Sclater and G. E. Shelley.	{ 1891	{ 87	{ 448
XX.	Psittaci	T. Salvadori	1891	79	499
XXI.	Columbæ	T. Salvadori	1893	68	415
XXII.	{ Pterocletes, Gallinæ, Opistho- comi, Hemipodii	{ W. R. Ogilvie Grant.	{ 1893	{ 94	{ 426
XXIII.	Fulicariæ and Alectorides ..	R. B. Sharpe.	1894	88	252
XXIV.	Limicolæ	R. B. Sharpe.	1896	102	255
XXV.	{ Gavie	{ H. Saunders.	{ 1896	{ 46	{ 224
	{ Tubinares	{ O. Salvin.			
XXVI.	{ Plataleæ, Herodiones, Stega- nopodes, Pygopodes, Alcæ, and Impennes	{ R. B. Sharpe and W. R. Ogilvie Grant.	{ 1898	{ 98	{ 290
XXVII.	{ Chenomorphæ, Crypturi, and Ratitæ	{ T. Salvadori.	{ 1895	{ 83	{ 296
				2255	11,617

Pheasants of the genus *Lophura* in Bangka is *L. nobilis*—the same as the Bornean species. (Cf. Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. vol. xvii. p. 175.)

33. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses, 1897.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1897. 15de Aarsberetning on danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vid. Meddel. fra d. naturh. i Kbhn. 1898, p. 431.]

Mr. Winge's report on the birds obtained and observed at the Danish lighthouses in 1897 is drawn up on the methodical plan adopted in former papers on this subject (cf. 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 624). In 1897, 611 specimens of 59 different species were forwarded from 30 lighthouses to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen. The report contains full particulars as to the dates and modes of their occurrence. The species most numerously represented at the lighthouses in 1897 were the Skylark, *Alauda arvensis* (over 300 examples), and the Song-Thrush, *Turdus musicus* (193 examples).

XI.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—It may be of some interest to your readers to learn that a male of *Sasia everetti* was captured by my Dyak collector some weeks ago. As this example differs in some particulars from the figure and description of a specimen, which is probably a female, published in the Cat. B. M. vol. xviii. p. 559, I append a short account of it:—

Above olive, very dark on the crown; rump and scapulars tipped with orange-rufous; chin, malar region, nasal plumes, and throat orange-rufous; breast dusky olive, with a few orange-rufous feathers admixed, increased in number on the belly, where they almost entirely conceal the dusky olive wing- and tail-coverts, as in female. Total length (in millimetres) 80; culmen 11; wing 51; tarsus 13; toes—outer anterior 11, inner anterior 6, posterior 11·5.